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# U.S. orders Cuban envoys expelled for buying electronics equipment

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WASHINGTON — The U.S. government has ordered the expulsion of two Cuban diplomats at the United Nations, one of them a high-level intelligence operative, the State Department announced yesterday.

Spokesman Dean Fischer identified the diplomats as Mario Monzon Barata, second secretary to Cuba's U.N. mission in New York, and his assistant, Jose Rodriguez Rodriguez and said they had been told they "must depart the United States expeditiously."

In a statement issued at the State Department's regular noon briefing, Fischer accused Monzon Barata and Rodriguez Rodriguez of violating the Trading with the Enemy Act "by buying and trying to buy large quantities of high technology electronics equipment, much of it subject to stra-

tegic trade controls."

Fischer said the expulsion order followed the seizure in Orlando, Fla., last Thursday of \$38,000 worth of television satellite monitoring equipment. Fischer said the U.S. Customs Service and the FBI had traced the purchase of the equipment to Monzon Barata.

He said FBI counterintelligence investigations had established that Monzon Barata had been engaged in intelligence gathering for more than a year as chief of the New York office of the Cuban Directorate General of Intelligence and that Rodriguez Rodriguez is his secretary.

The expulsion order was delivered Monday by the United States' U.N. mission to the Cuban mission, Fischer said.

He gave no specific date for the diplomats' departure and did not say how the satellite equipment could be

used or what kind of intelligence gathering Monzon had been involved in.

One State Department official, who requested anonymity, said Monzon Barata already had purchased and shipped to Cuba similar sophisticated American-made equipment. He said U.S. intelligence officials were reasonably certain that some of the most advanced equipment had been sent to the Soviet Union and that the Cubans were acting as purchasing agents for the Soviets.

The Cuban mission to the U.N. declined comment on the expulsions, as did the Cuban Interests Section in Washington.